

What is claimed is:

1. A method for playing a secondary game in association with a primary wagering game, the method comprising:
 - activating the secondary game upon the occurrence of a predefined triggering event in the primary wagering game;
 - beginning the play of the secondary game by dealing a hand of cards randomly drawn from an abridged deck of playing cards, the abridged deck of playing cards having thirteen cards all of a single suit;
 - forming a final hand by discarding as few as none, and as many as all, of the cards from the dealt hand, wherein each of any discarded cards is replaced by a card from the abridged deck of playing cards; and
 - evaluating the final hand to determine a payout.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein evaluating the final hand of cards comprises comparing the final hand of cards to a standard poker payout table to determine the payout.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising awarding a payout after evaluating the final hand of cards.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising engaging in the play of a primary wagering game before activating the secondary game.
5. The method of claim 4, further comprising disengaging from the play of the primary wagering game upon the occurrence of the triggering event.
6. The method of claim 5, further comprising re-engaging in the play of the primary wagering game after evaluating the final hand.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising deactivating the secondary game after evaluating the final hand.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein dealing the hand of cards comprises dealing each of the cards face up.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein dealing the hand of cards comprises dealing each of the cards face down.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein dealing the hand of cards comprises dealing a portion of the cards face up and the remaining portion of the cards face down.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein forming the final hand comprises retaining all of the cards in the originally dealt hand and refraining from discarding any of the cards in the originally dealt hand.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a request to discard one or more cards in the dealt hand.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a request to hold as few as none and as many as all of the cards in the dealt hand.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
dealing one or more than one additional hand of cards, wherein each additional hand is dealt from a different abridged deck of playing cards and each abridged deck of playing cards contains thirteen cards all of a single suit;
permitting each of the cards in each additional hand to be discarded and replaced, wherein the particular abridged deck of playing cards used to deal a specific additional hand is the same abridged deck of playing cards used to replace cards discarded from that specific additional hand; and
evaluating each of the additional hands and awarding a payout for each of the evaluated hands, wherein each payout is determined by comparing each additional hand to a standard poker payout table.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising:
receiving one or more requests to discard one or more cards in one or more of the additional hands;
discarding one or more of the requested cards from one or more of the additional hands; and
replacing the discarded cards, the particular abridged deck of cards used to deal a specific additional hand is the same particular abridged deck of cards used to replace cards discarded from that specific additional hand.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing the primary wagering game on a gaming machine.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing the primary wagering game on a video poker machine.
18. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing the primary wagering game on a slot machine.
19. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing the primary wagering game on a video slot machine.
20. The method of claim 1, wherein the primary wagering game is a card game.
21. The method of claim 1, further comprising detecting the occurrence of the triggering event before activating the secondary game.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein detecting the occurrence of the triggering event includes detecting a consecutive number of wins during play of the primary wagering game.
23. The method of claim 21, further comprising delaying the play of the secondary game after detecting the occurrence of the triggering event.
24. A method for playing a bonus game in association with a main game, the method comprising:
- engaging in the play of the main game;
 - activating the bonus game upon the occurrence of a predefined triggering event in the main game;
 - beginning the play of the bonus game by dealing five cards randomly drawn from an abridged deck of playing cards, the abridged deck of playing cards having thirteen unique cards all of a single suit;
 - permitting as few as none and as many as five of the dealt cards to be discarded, wherein each discarded card is replaced with a card from the abridged deck of playing cards, thereby forming a final hand of cards; and
 - awarding a bonus payout based on the final hand of cards.
25. The method of claim 24, further comprising receiving a request to evaluate the final hand of cards.
26. The method of claim 24, further comprising evaluating the final hand of cards to determine the payout amount before awarding the bonus payout.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein evaluating the final hand of cards comprises comparing the final hand of cards to a standard poker payout table to determine the amount of the bonus payout.
28. The method of claim 24, further comprising detecting the occurrence of the triggering event before activating the bonus game.
29. The method of claim 28, further comprising delaying the play of the bonus game after detecting the occurrence of the triggering event.
30. The method of claim 24, further comprising temporarily disengaging from the play of the main game upon the occurrence of the triggering event in the main game.
31. The method of claim 30, further comprising re-engaging in the play of the main game after awarding the bonus payout in the bonus game.
32. The method of claim 24, further comprising offering an additional bonus game for play by a game player after awarding the bonus payout.
33. The method of claim 24, further comprising deactivating the bonus game after awarding the bonus payout.
34. The method of claim 24, wherein dealing five cards comprises dealing each of the five cards face-up.
35. The method of claim 24, wherein dealing five cards comprises dealing a portion of the five cards face-down and dealing the remaining portion of the five cards face-up.
36. The method of claim 24, further comprising:
receiving a request to discard one or more of the dealt cards;
discarding one or more of the cards requested to be discarded; and
replacing each of the one or more discarded cards with a card from the abridged deck of cards.
37. The method of claim 24, further comprising first permitting the selection of as few as none and as many as all of the five dealt cards to remain in the hand and then permitting the unselected cards to be discarded and replaced.
38. The method of claim 37, further comprising:
holding cards selected to remain in the hand, the number of selected cards being as few as none and as many as all of the five dealt cards;

discarding the cards not selected to remain in the hand; and
replacing each of any discarded cards with a card drawn from the abridged deck of cards.

39. The method of claim 24, further comprising:

dealing one or more than one additional hand, wherein each additional hand is dealt from a different abridged deck of playing cards and each abridged deck of playing cards contains thirteen cards all of a single suit;

permitting each of the cards in each additional hand to be discarded and replaced, wherein the particular abridged deck of playing cards used to deal a specific additional hand is the same abridged deck of playing cards used to replace cards discarded from that specific additional hand; and

awarding a bonus payout for each additional hand, wherein each bonus payout is determined by comparing each additional hand to a standard poker payout table.

40. The method of claim 39, further comprising:

receiving one or more requests to discard cards in one or more of the additional hands;

discarding each of the requested cards from the one or more additional hands; and

replacing each of any discarded cards, wherein the particular abridged deck of cards used to deal a specific additional hand is the same particular abridged deck of cards used to replace cards discarded from that specific additional hand.

41. The method of claim 24, further comprising providing the main game on a gaming machine.

42. The method of claim 24, further comprising providing the main game on a video poker machine.

43. The method of claim 24, further comprising providing the main game on a slot machine.

44. The method of claim 24, further comprising providing the main game on a video slot machine.

45. The method of claim 24, wherein the main game is a card game.

46. The method of claim 27, wherein the evaluated final hand of cards is a flush.

47. The method of claim 27, wherein the evaluated final hand of cards is a straight flush.

48. The method of claim 27, wherein the evaluated final hand of cards is a royal flush.

49. A method for playing a bonus game in conjunction with a main game, the method, under the control of a game player, comprising:

playing a main game having a trigger for activating the bonus game;

triggering the activation of the bonus game;

receiving five cards randomly drawn from an abridged deck of playing cards, the abridged deck of playing cards having thirteen unique cards all of a single suit;

selecting as few as none or as many as all of the five received cards to remain in the final hand;

discarding cards not selected to remain in the final hand;

drawing replacement cards from the abridged deck of cards to complete the final hand of five cards; and

receiving a payout award based on the comparison of the final hand to a standard poker payout table.

50. The method of claim 49, further comprising receiving a prompt to select which cards will remain in the hand of cards.

51. The method of claim 49, further comprising submitting a final hand of cards for comparison to a standard poker payout table.

52. The method of claim 49, further comprising choosing to delay playing the bonus game after triggering the activation of the bonus game.

53. The method of claim 49, further comprising receiving one or more than one additional hand of five cards, wherein each additional hand is randomly drawn from a different abridged deck of playing cards and each abridged deck of playing cards contains thirteen cards all of a single suit.

54. The method of claim 53, further comprising:

selecting as few as none and as many as all of the cards in each additional poker hand to remain in the final hand;

discarding cards from each additional hand not selected to remain in the final hand;

drawing a card to replace each discarded card, wherein the abridged deck of playing cards used to deal a specific additional hand is the same deck of playing cards used to replace cards discarded from that specific additional hand; and

receiving a payout award for each additional hand, the amount of the award being based on the comparison of each additional hand to a standard poker payout table.

55. The method of claim 54, further comprising submitting each of the additional hands for evaluation to determine a payout award.

56. The method of claim 49, further comprising playing the main game on a gaming machine.

57. The method of claim 49, further comprising playing the main game on a video poker machine.

58. The method of claim 49, further comprising playing the main game on a slot machine.

59. The method of claim 49, further comprising playing the main game on a video slot machine.

60. The method of claim 49, wherein the main game is a card game.

61. A system for providing a bonus game to be played in conjunction with a main game, the system comprising:

means for engaging in the play of the main game;

means for activating the bonus game during the play of the main game;

means for dealing a hand of five cards randomly drawn from an abridged deck of playing cards, the abridged deck of playing cards having thirteen cards all of a single suit;

means for forming a final hand of cards by discarding as few as none and as many as all of the five cards in the dealt hand, wherein each of any discarded cards is replaced by a card from the abridged deck of playing cards; and

means for awarding a payout, wherein the payout is determined by comparing the final hand of cards to a standard poker payout table.

62. A gaming machine configured to provide a bonus game to be played in conjunction with a main wagering game, the bonus game comprising:

dealing five cards randomly drawn from an abridged deck of playing cards, the abridged deck of playing cards having thirteen unique cards all of a single suit;

discarding as few as none and as many as all of the dealt cards;

replacing each of any discarded cards with a card drawn from the abridged deck of playing cards; and

awarding a bonus payout, wherein the payout is determined by comparing the final hand of cards to a poker payout table.

63. The gaming machine of claim 62, wherein the payout is determined by comparing the final hand of cards to a standard poker payout table.

64. The gaming machine of claim 62, wherein the payout is determined by comparing the final hand of cards to a modified poker payout table.